



Brownfields 2006 Grant Fact Sheet

Kalamazoo County, MI

EPA Brownfields Program

EPA's Brownfields Program empowers states, communities, and other stakeholders to work together to prevent, assess, safely clean up, and sustainably reuse brownfields. A brownfield site is real property, the expansion, redevelopment, or reuse of which may be complicated by the presence or potential presence of a hazardous substance, pollutant, or contaminant. On January 11, 2002, President George W. Bush signed into law the Small Business Liability Relief and Brownfields Revitalization Act. Under the Brownfields Law, EPA provides financial assistance to eligible applicants through four competitive grant programs: assessment grants, revolving loan fund grants, cleanup grants, and job training grants. Additionally, funding support is provided to state and tribal response programs through a separate mechanism.

Community Description

Kalamazoo County was selected to receive two brownfields assessment grants. Kalamazoo County (population 238,603) is located in southwest Michigan, approximately midway between Chicago, Illinois, and Detroit, Michigan. The county has a history of agricultural and industrial uses dating from the early 1800s. Kalamazoo, known as a center for manufacturing, was home to many paper mills, and pharmaceutical and automotive facilities. Mergers and closures in these industries have left the county with numerous abandoned factories and industrial sites, many along the banks of the Kalamazoo River. A significant amount of growth has occurred in the outlying farmlands of the county. Over the last 20 years, the county



Assessment Grants



\$200,000 for hazardous substances
\$200,000 for petroleum

EPA has selected Kalamazoo County for two brownfields assessment grants. Hazardous substances grant funds will be used to inventory and prioritize sites; perform Phase I, II, and baseline environmental site assessments; prepare site cleanup plans; and conduct community outreach activities around the county. Funds also will be used to address sites contaminated with chemicals utilized to produce methamphetamines and to conduct health monitoring for affected populations. Petroleum grant funds will be used to inventory and prioritize sites; perform Phase I, II, and baseline environmental site assessments; prepare site cleanup plans; and conduct community outreach for sites with potential petroleum contamination.

Contacts

For further information, including specific grant contacts, additional grant information, brownfields news and events, and publications and links, visit the EPA Brownfields web site at: www.epa.gov/brownfields.

EPA Region 5 Brownfields Team
312-886-7576

<http://www.epa.gov/R5Brownfields/>

Grant Recipient: Kalamazoo County, MI
269-384-8304

The cooperative agreement for this grant has not yet been negotiated; therefore, activities described in this fact sheet are subject to change.

has lost almost 35,000 acres of farmland, and the urban cores of the county have been left with abandoned and potentially contaminated properties. The Michigan Department of Environmental Quality has identified 89 sites with hazardous substances contamination and 235 locations with petroleum contamination. Assessment

and eventual cleanup of the county's brownfields sites will help control or eliminate the threats to human health and the environment, lead to new opportunities for redevelopment, and alleviate development pressure on county farmlands and greenspace.